Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /112 W

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R 121708Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6317

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC, BE

SUBJECT: NON-FAT DRY MILK MIXING REGULATIONS

REF: STATE 057607

1. DURING MARCH 11 CALL ON BELGIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LAVENS, AMBASSADOR WALKER (WHO WAS IN BRUSSELS ON OFFICIAL VISIT) PROTESTED EC DECISION TO IMPLEMENT NFDM MIXING REGULATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT. WE ALSO GAVE LAVENS A COPY OF

TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE AMBASSADOR HINTON LEFT WITH COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET ON MARCH 10.

- 2. LAVENS SAID EC BUILD UP OF NFDM STOCKS WAS IN PART A REACTION TO 1973 U.S. SOYBEAN EMBARGO AND RESULTANT EUROPEAN CONCERN FOR PROTEIN SUPPLIES. WALKER REPLIED THAT EC RECEIVED ALL OF SOYBEANS AND MEAL CONTRACTED FOR FROM U.S. IN SPITE OF SHORT LIVED ACTION U.S. HAD TAKEN. IN ADDITION, WALKER POINTED OUT EC EAS PASSING TO U.S. PART OF THE COST OF A PROBLEM CREATED BY THE EC ITSELF.
- 3. LAVENS REPLIED U.S. SHOULD NOT BE TOO UPSET BY EC ACTION SINCE ONLY 4 TO 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL U.S. SOYBEAN EXPORTS TO EC WERE AFFECTED. WALKER REPLIED EC ACTION WAS IN VIOLATION OF SEVERAL GATT ARTICLES AND HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS U.S. REPRESENTATIONS IN CALL EC CAPITALS AND AT COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS. WALKER ALSO INDICATED THAT COMBINATION OF DAIRY PRICE INCREASES AND LACK OF MEASURES TO CURB MILK PRODUCTION COULD CAUSE NFDM STOCK TO CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE AND THEREFORE CREATE ANOTHER NFDM SURPLUS PROBLEM IN NEAR FUTURE.
- 4. LAVENS REPLIED HE DID NOT THINK EC DAIRY PRICE INCREASES WOULD STIMULATE MILK PRODUCTION BECAUSE THEY WERE LESS THAN THE INCREASES IN PRODUCTION COSTS. LAVENS ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED EC ACTION WAS TEMPORARY AND WOULD NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND SEVEN MONTH PERIOD. FIRESTONE

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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, BE, EEC To: STATE

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